

Preliminary Amendment under Rule 1.53(b), dated 30 September 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (original): A method of etching titanium comprising:

immersing the titanium in a first bath comprising
hydrochloric acid, phosphoric acid and hydrofluoric
acid; and

immersing the titanium in a second bath comprising titanium
dioxide and deionized water.

Claim 17 (original): A method in accordance with claim 16 wherein
the second bath comprises titanium dioxide in an amount ranging
from about 0.5 pbw to about 6.0 pbw, and deionized water in an
amount ranging from about 2 pbw to about 10 pbw.

Claim 18 (original): A method in accordance with claim 17 wherein
the first bath comprises 38% hydrochloric acid in an amount
ranging from about 350 ml to about 450 ml, 85% phosphoric acid in
an amount ranging from about 35 ml to about 45 ml and 52%
hydrofluoric acid in an amount ranging from about 10 ml to about
30 ml.

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Claim 19 (original): A method in accordance with claim 18 further comprising rinsing the titanium in deionized water after immersing the titanium in the second bath.

Claim 20 (original): A method in accordance with claim 19 wherein the second bath is maintained at a temperature ranging from about 120° F to about 180° F.

Claim 21 (original): A method in accordance with claim 19 wherein the titanium is dried in an oven having a temperature ranging from about at 200° F to about 250° F.